

Finding of No Significant Impact
Eradication of Isolated Populations of Light Brown Apple Moth in California
Revised Environmental Assessment
June, 2007

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), has prepared a revised environmental assessment (EA) that analyzes potential environmental consequences of eradicating isolated populations of light brown apple moth (*Epiphyas postvittana*) (LBAM) in California. The EA, incorporated by reference in this document, is available from:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Plant Protection and Quarantine
Emergency and Domestic Programs
Emergency Management
4700 River Road, Unit 134
Riverdale, MD 20737-1236

The revised EA analyzed alternatives consisting of (1) maintaining the Federal quarantine order without further action by APHIS (no action alternative), and (2) continuation of the Federal quarantine order along with eradication of isolated populations of LBAM in California with the use of *Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki* (Btk) and/or LBAM-specific pheromone (treatment alternative). The revised EA evaluated the potential impacts from eradication treatments of small, isolated populations and determined that any potential impacts would be limited. Since the circumstances surrounding each isolated population are unique, each site will be considered in a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) prior to treatment. This FONSI addresses the treatment for LBAM in Half Moon Bay, San Mateo County, California (see attachment 1).

Treatment in the Half Moon Bay Eradication Area

Half Moon Bay is a coastal community located approximately 28 miles south of San Francisco and lies within San Mateo County. There are numerous local beaches and parks that provide recreation to the residents and tourists. The city is home to many nurseries and farms.

Five LBAMs were trapped in Half Moon Bay between May 2007 and September 2007. Three additional finds were confirmed in 2008. Due to the additional finds, an eradication zone has been defined with a 1.5 mile area around all of the finds. This FONSI addresses the treatment for LBAM found within the eradication boundary.

When an LBAM is found within this eradication boundary, a 200-meter radius area will be defined as a treatment area for each find. The treatment areas will be treated with Isomate-LBAM plus (pheromone-impregnated twist ties) at a rate of 250 dispensers per acre by attaching the twist ties to trees, shrubs, and other fixtures. The twist ties allow for the continual release of pheromone over the course of 120 days. The twist ties will be removed after two LBAM life cycles (a lifecycle could be up to six months in certain areas). In some cases the twist ties may be replaced for additional treatments. When all treatments are completed, the twist ties will be

removed. Maps for future treatment sites within this potential treatment area will be posted online at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/ca/lbam.shtml.

The revised EA evaluated the potential impacts of eradication treatments of small isolated populations like the ones in Half Moon Bay. Due to the nature of the dispenser and the pheromone itself, there will be limited impacts to the human environment including nontargets because the product is contained in dispensers that are tied to fixtures and will be removed after treatment. The pheromone itself has been shown to attract several native tortricids as well as a pyralid. However, each of these species has a widespread distribution and therefore any impact to these non-targets will be minimal and localized. In addition, there will be no negative cumulative effects from this action in combination with any other actions because the treatments in isolated population areas will not be combined with other LBAM eradication tools. These isolated populations are at least five miles away from any generally infested area or they are separate from the generally infested area by natural barriers to LBAM movement.

APHIS and the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) conducted a site visit on June 11, 2008 with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regarding treatments with LBAM-specific pheromone at various locations in San Mateo County, California, including Half Moon Bay and Pescadero. APHIS has completed informal consultation with Fish and Wildlife Service on the proposed eradication treatments in San Mateo County.

There are no disproportionate adverse effects to minorities, low-income populations, or children in accordance with Executive Order 12898, "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-income Populations," and Executive Order 13045, "Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks."

APHIS' finding of no significant impact for these three treatment areas is based upon the expected limited environmental consequences, as analyzed in the EA. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared if implementation of the proposed action may significantly affect the quality of the human environment. I have determined that there would be no significant impact to the human environment from the implementation of the treatment alternative and, therefore, no EIS needs to be prepared.

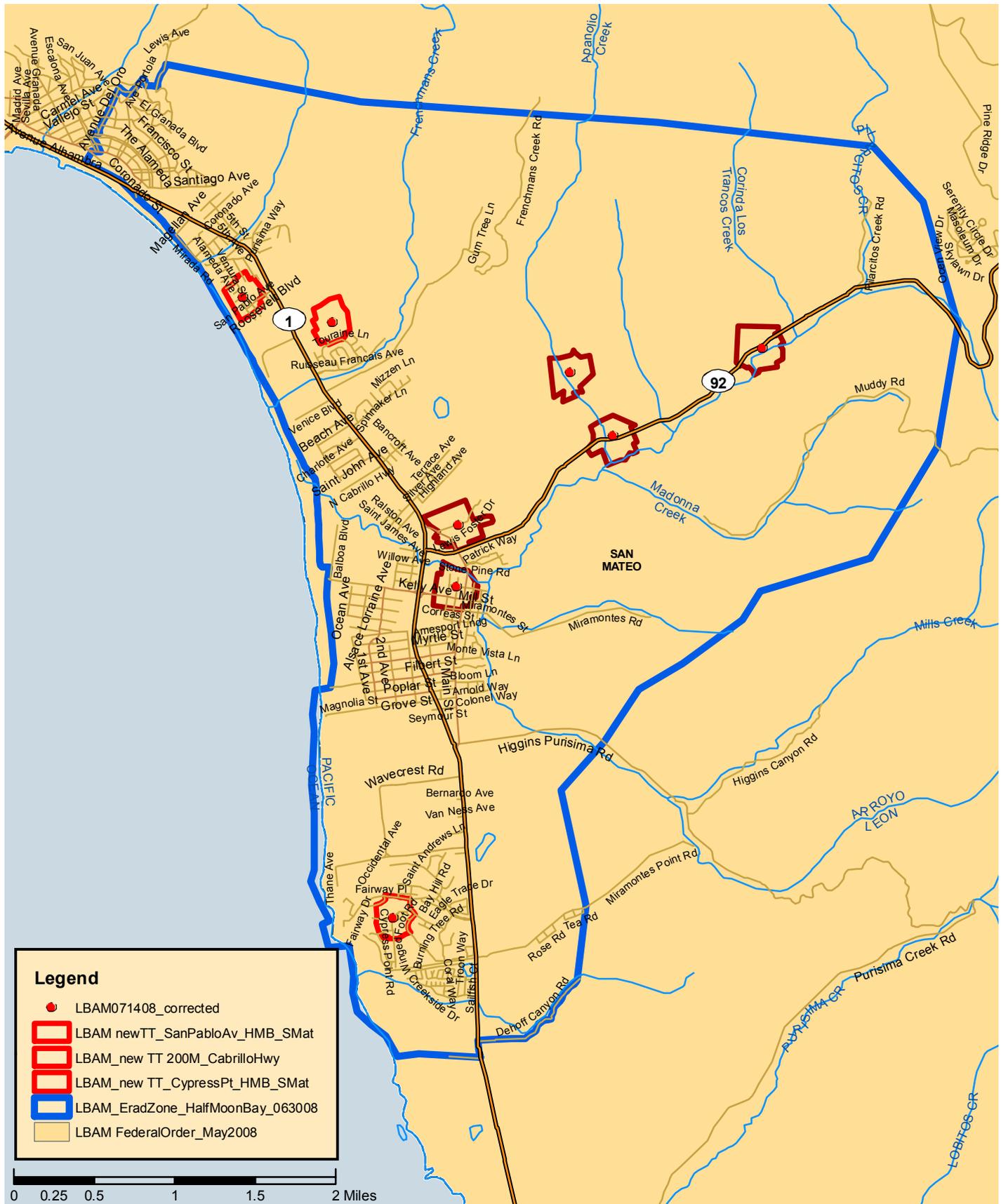


For _____
Osama El-Lissy
Emergency and Domestic Programs
Plant Protection and Quarantine
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Agency

8/11/08

Date

Eradication Area for Light Brown Apple Moth Half Moon Bay, San Mateo County, California



Eradication Area for Light Brown Apple Moth San Pablo Ave, Half Moon Bay, San Mateo Co, CA

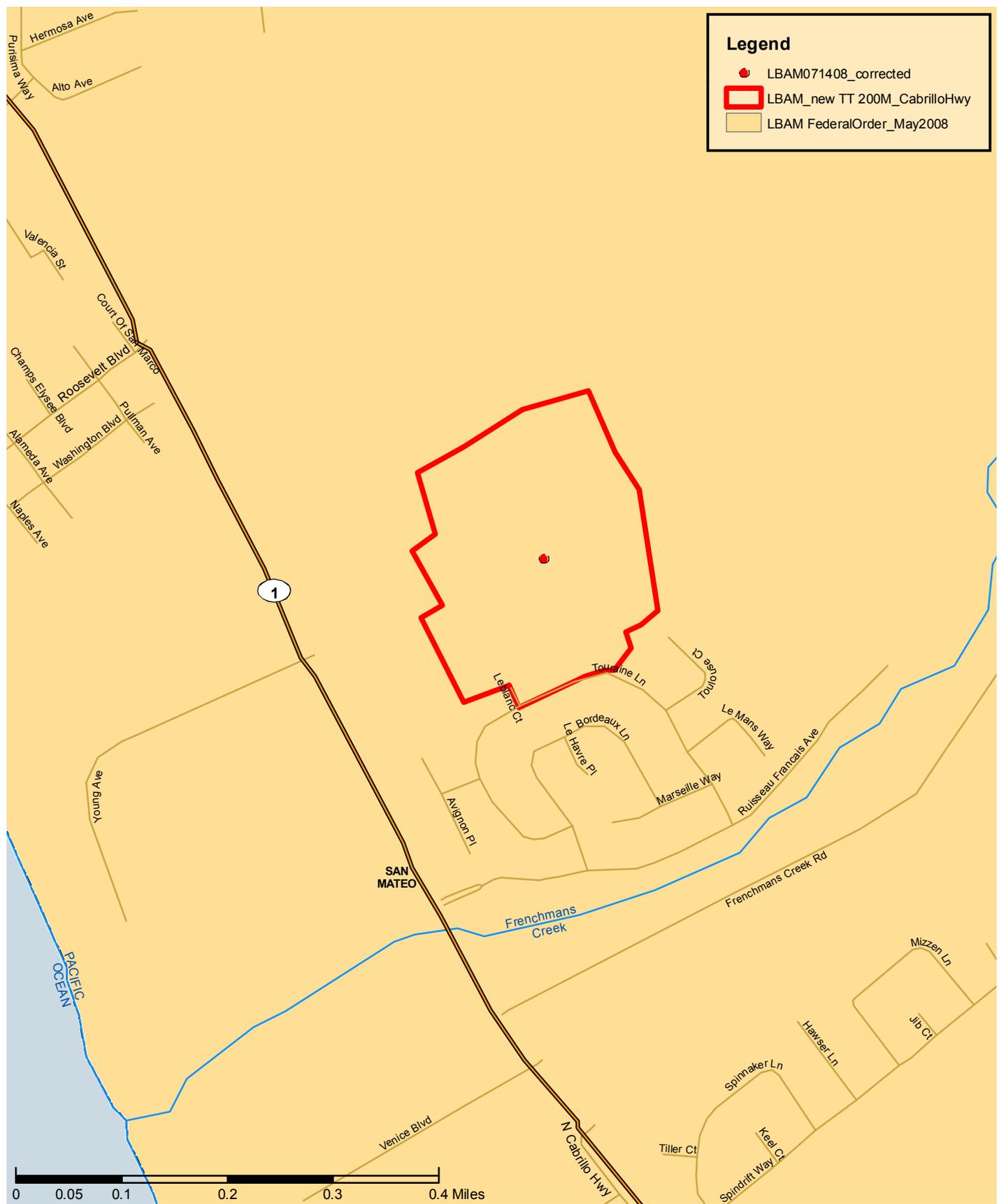


Legend

- LBAM collected 2008 thru 6-25-08
- LBAM_HalfMoonBay_SMat_063008
- FederalOrder_May2008



Eradication Area for Light Brown Apple Moth Cabrillo Highway, San Mateo County, California



Eradication Area for Light Brown Apple Moth Cypress Point Rd, Half Moon Bay, San Mateo Co, CA

